



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/919,750
Applicant : Harry J. Buncke
Filed : November 29, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 3731
Examiner : Gary Jackson
Docket No. : 013341-000003b
Customer No. : 24,239

Confirmation No.: 7589

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN REISSUE APPLICATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 23, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows. A Petition for Extension of Time and excess claims fee added by this amendment are enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit any extra amount owed or to credit any extra amount paid to deposit account no. **13-4365**.

Please amend the present application as follows:

In the claims:

9.(Twice Amended) A surgical method for bringing and holding together two tissue portions in a living patient or animal, to allow healing and regrowth together of the two tissue portions on either side of a tissue separation, comprising:

(a) at the tissue separation, inserting a surgical needle into tissue at one side of the separation, penetrating into the one tissue portion, the needle having a trailing end secured to a one-way suture which has a multiplicity of exterior barbs providing for gripping of the tissue in one direction only, the barbs permitting movement of the suture through the tissue in the direction the needle is inserted, the surgical needle being a part of a double-armed suture which includes first and second such surgical needles oriented in opposite directions and a single suture extending between and secured to the trailing ends of the two surgical needles, the suture having said exterior barbs oriented in one direction for a first portion of the length of the suture and in the opposite direction for a remaining, second portion of the length of the suture, each portion having the barbs oriented so as to allow movement of that portion of the suture through the tissue in the same direction in which the needle secured to that portion of the suture is inserted, wherein the suture is about 100 microns to about 500 microns in diameter, and the depth